

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 9025 ACTION STATE INFO MOSCOW JUNE 14.

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ILO, PLAB
SUBJECT: ILO: THE RUSSIANS AT THE CONFERENCE

REF: GENEVA 8976 (NOTAL)

1. DURING EARLY SESSIONS OF THE CURRENT ILO CONFERENCE, WHICH BEGAN JUNE 7, THE SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES HAVE LAUNCHED A VERBAL ASSAULT AGAINST THE STRUCTURE OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND AGAINST THE APPLICATION OF LABOR STANDARDS AND THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS. SPEAKING BEFORE THE PLENARY JUNE 9, SOVIET GOVERNMENT DELEGATE KOSTINE DENOUNCED THE ILO TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE AS UNDEMOCRATIC AND UNREPRESENTATIVE BECAUSE DIRECTORS OF STATE ENTERPRISES HAVE NO MEMBERS AMONG THE EMPLOYERS GROUP IN THE GOVERNING BODY. HE CALLED THIS "AN INFRINGEMENT OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE ILO, ITS TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE AND ITS UNIVERSALITY". ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND ITS SUPERVISORY MACHINERY, KOSTINE STATED THAT THE SYSTEM WAS "ORGANIZED IN SUCH A WAY THAT PEOPLE ARE USING THE MACHINERY IN THEIR INTERESTS TO HINDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ILO.... THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS IS, AS IT WERE, A SUPRANATIONAL

COURT WHICH JUDGES GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE ADOPTED ILO CONVENTIONS, AND THE PECULIARITIES OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, AND DIFFERENCES IN LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT ARE NOT TAKEN INTO SUFFICIENT ACCOUNT. THE MAINTENANCE OF SUCH 'PROCEDURES' MAY LEAD TO A COMPROMISING OF THE ENTIRE MACHINERY, AND GOVERNMENTS MAY REFUSE TO TAKE PART IN IT". "WE ARE AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT AIMED AT HAVING THE CONFERENCE MERELY RUBBER-STAMP THE COMMITTEE'S -- OFTEN FALSE-- CONCLUSIONS WITHOUT ANY CHANGES BEING MADE IN ITS MODUS OPERANDI."

2. THE SOVIETS CONTINUED THE THEME IN SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPLICATIONS (REFTEL) PROMPTING UK GOVERNMENT REP JAMES TO MAKE AN IMPASSIONED DEFENSE OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS AND THE SUPERVISORY MACHINERY, AS REQUIRING UNIFORM AND UNIVERSAL APPLICATION OF STANDARDS IRRESPECTIVE OF DIFFERING SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEMS. SOVIET DISSATISFACTION WITH THE ILO SYSTEM IS NOT NEW. YET LONG-TIME ILO OBSERVERS HAVE TOLD THE MISSION THAT THE TONE OF THE SOVIET STATEMENTS IS MORE BITTER THAN IN RECENT YEARS.

3. GOVERNING BODY ELECTIONS WERE HELD JUNE 13. THE SOVIET "WORKER DELEGATE" PIMENOV WAS REELECTED TO A TITULAR SEAT BUT RECEIVED THE FEWEST NUMBER OF VOTES CAST FOR THE 14 SEATS. THREE YEARS AGO, HE RECEIVED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SECOND HIGHEST VOTE. ON THE EMPLOYER SIDE, SOVIET DELEGATE POLYAKOV RECEIVED 31 OF 110 VOTES, 4 MORE THAN 3 YEARS AGO, BUT STILL FAR LESS THAN ANY OTHER EMPLOYER CANDIDATE, AND THERE WERE 10 ADDITIONAL EMPLOYER VOTES THIS TIME. THESE ELECTION RESULTS MAY CONTRIBUTE TO EVEN GREATER SOVIET ATTACKS ON THE ILO SYSTEM PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE RECENT COMPLAINTS FILED BY THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL), AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) AGAINST THE SOVIETS FOR VIOLATION OF FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION CONVENTIONS. . VANDEN HEUVEL UNQUOTE NEWSOM

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